

Editorial

Several things have changed in the editorial board of STSS in the past months. First, we have a new managing editor Epp Reiska. Epp works at the Tallinn University Institute of International Social Studies and has been helping the team already since fall. Her help has turned out to be vital to the good management of the journal and we look forward to many more years with her. Second, our long time book review editor Filippo Menga has taken up the position of associate editor of the Elsevier journal *Political Geography*. To be able to devote himself fully to his new task, he has left our editorial team and has been replaced by two new book review editors. We issued an open call and received a number of applications beyond our expectations. In the end, we selected Prof Junpeng Li (Central China Normal University) and Prof Ahsan Ullah (University of Brunei Darussalam), who will help identify books and reviewers for the next years.

This issue starts with an article by Dr Filippo Menga, who has recently moved from the University of Manchester to the University of Reading. His “Bigger is Better or how Governments Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Megaprojects” continues a stream of research at the crossroads between identity construction and hyrdopolitics, with which he has been engaging for some time (Menga 2015; 2017) to propose that what he calls megaprojects (this measured by their size and emotional impact) can end up at the centre of new political ideologies. His study on the narratives surrounding the Strait of Messina Bridge in Italy and the Rogun Dam in Tajikistan suggests that in spite of the different geographical locations and dynamics of these two projects, the narratives constructed around these projects are in fact the same, with decision makers embracing “images of heroic progress toward a better future to frame megaprojects as inevitable signs of progress and national well-being” (Menga 2018).

In the second article of this issue “Land Reform, Market Adjustment, and Rice Market Growth in Vietnam”, Thanapan Laiprakobsup and Sunisa Chorkaew (2018) examine Vietnam’s rice sector policy reform in 1976-2014. Using the ordinary least squares model and marginal effects, the study finds that policy reform has had, so far, a positive effect on rice production and exports in Vietnam, to eventually suggest that the policy transition, as implemented since its 1976 inception, has been contributing to an increase in rice production and exports.

Further in the issue, Anton Vukpalaj, in his “Acquittals at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2012-2013: the domestic implications”, examines the verdicts of four trials involving eight former Croatian, Kosovar, and Serbian military, police and intelligence officials issued between November 2012 and May 2013. In a way that is similar to Menga’s article, Vukpalaj looks at the possible alternative ways these verdicts can be used, in a fashion similar to other post-socialist countries (Ó Beacháin, 2016; Ó Beacháin & Kevlihan, 2015; Pawlusz & Polese, 2017), to construct alternative official narratives that can legitimise some actors and delegitimise others.

Finally, in their “Political vs Everyday Forms of Governance in Uzbekistan: the Illegal, Immoral and Illegitimate”, Urinboyev et al (2018) continue a stream of research on informality in post-socialist spaces that has been rapidly emerging (Giordano & Hayoz, 2013; Henig & Makovicky, 2016; Polese & Rekhviashvili, 2017; Polese et al., 2017) and has eventually led to the Encyclopaedia of Informality, classifying and cataloguing a variety of informal practices around the world (Ledeneva, 2018). The authors look at the way official state narratives are challenged by silent, unorganised, often unaware gestures of resistance at the bottom of a society. In particular, they suggest that the everyday dimension is of particular importance when trying to understand the governance trajectories, as it allows to look critically and from a broader perspective at situations where individual and state perceptions of events, but also individual and state morality, diverge.

Two book reviews expand the scope of the current issue by seeking a dialogue with two of the articles above. The first one by Muhammad Azizuddin is a review of *Managing Ambiguity: How Clientelism, Citizenship, and Power Shape Personhood in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. The book gives further continuity to the growing body of informality literature in post-socialism. The second

one by Edward Lemon looks at *Power and Water in Central Asia*, which may be regarded as a work providing the most comprehensive analysis of water and inter-state relations in Central Asia to date.

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